

## Appendix Two

Here is the final version of the questionnaire that was made available to users. The formatting is different, as the questionnaire was originally displayed as a series of html web-forms. Question numbers were not displayed to respondents.

Following the questionnaire is an example of the message that would be posted on website forums to promote it.

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Welcome to my questionnaire on the retrieval of online bittorrent material. I am currently completing a postgraduate course in Library and Information Management at Manchester Metropolitan University. My dissertation topic is on the online retrieval methods of bittorrent users. This questionnaire performs a vital role in exploring this subject. The questionnaire is divided into 3 separate sections. The first section asks you questions regarding how you find bittorrent material. The second section deals with your use of different information on torrent material to assess their importance. The final section assesses your experiences in the retrieval of bittorrent material. In total, the survey should take between five and ten minutes to complete. This questionnaire is for people who use applications which employ the bittorrent protocol to share data with others. As such, it uses concepts and terms that should be familiar to its users (for example, seeds and leeches). Please do not complete this questionnaire if you have not used bittorrent before. All of the data submitted through this questionnaire is done so anonymously. Your IP address is not logged and you are not required to enter any identifying personal details, including your email address.

### Section One:

When did you start using bittorrent?

1. Less than three months ago
2. Three to six months ago
3. Six months to one year ago
4. One to two years ago
5. More than two years ago

On average, how many torrent files would you say you download each week?

1. One or less
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four
5. Five or more

Do you use any other peer-to-peer applications for sharing files?

1. Yes
2. No

How do you find your torrent files? Below are listed a number of statements about locating torrent files. Please indicate how often each applies to you by checking the appropriate box.

	Very rarely or not at all	Not often	Occasionally	Quite often	Very frequently
I use a 'regular' internet search engine. (e.g. Google or Yahoo)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I use a bittorrent internet search engine that indexes torrents from different bittorrent websites. (e.g. www.bittorrent.com or www.isohunt.com)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I use a bittorrent website deals with a variety of different types of material. (e.g. http://thepiratebay.org or www.mininova.org)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I use a bittorrent website that deals with a specific type of material. (e.g. a site that deals only with software or only with music)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I find torrents through using RSS feeds or email notifications from a website.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Another user sends torrents to me or sends me a link to them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you use another method or methods to locate torrents please describe them briefly here:

Please consider the torrents you have used in the past and indicate how often the statements below have applied to you.

	Very rarely or not at all	Not often	Occasionally	Quite often	Very frequently
I have come across torrents while generally browsing torrent websites and then downloaded them if they interested me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have looked at specific websites or categories for torrents that interest me and then downloaded them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have searched for torrents on a certain type of material and then downloaded them if I was successful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have searched for a specific torrent that I know to exist or will meet specific criteria I have set.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Below are a number of statements regarding your activity on bittorrent websites. Please indicate any that you currently take part in by ticking as many as are applicable.

1. I create new material to share using bittorrent and distribute torrent files for them.
2. I create torrent files relating to already existing material.
3. I share existing torrent files with other websites and communities.
4. I post comments on existing torrents, where this feature is available.
5. I participate in forum discussions on bittorrent websites.
6. Other \_\_\_\_\_







A list is given here of information that is sometimes available about a torrent of any type including those previously covered in this section. Please rate each item from one to ten depending on its value to you when you are finding and selecting a torrent file. A score of one indicates the information is of no value while a score of ten means it is very valuable to you in choosing a torrent. There is also a box marked 'Unsure of' - please check this if you have not heard of this type of information or are unsure of what it is.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unsure of
The date the torrent was uploaded / started	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The file size of the material being shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The number of users seeding the torrent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The number of users leaching the torrent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The number of times the torrent has been downloaded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feedback or comments made by other torrent users	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The website where the torrent file was first uploaded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The internet address of the tracker:(Assuming the tracker is one you are able to use)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you use any other type of information when finding and selecting a torrent file, please enter the details in the box below:

### Section 3:

How strongly do you agree with the following statements? Please select the option which best describes your opinion.

	Strongly disagree	Tend to disagree	Undecided	Tend to agree	Strongly agree
Torrent names and descriptions are often missing important information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torrent names and descriptions often contain inaccurate information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torrent names and descriptions often contain a lot of irrelevant information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torrent names and descriptions often contain abbreviations, acronyms or terminology which I find hard to understand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How often do you have difficulty locating torrents that meet your needs? Of the choices below, please select the option that best describes your experiences.

1. I generally have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs.
2. I often have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs.
3. I sometimes have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs.
4. I rarely have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs.
5. I almost never have difficulty finding torrents that best meet my needs.

Your help in this study is greatly appreciated. Finally, if you have any further feedback or thoughts that may be relevant to this study, please type them into the box below.

End of questionnaire

## **Example of message posted to promote the questionnaire:**

Hello.

I am currently finishing a postgraduate course in Library and Information Management at Manchester Metropolitan University (in the UK).

My dissertation topic is on the information retrieval needs of bittorrent users - what methods there are available, how they are used and what information (metadata) is important in finding and selecting torrent files.

To this end I've created an online questionnaire for bittorrent users to complete.

- I would GREATLY appreciate it if you could spare 5-10 minutes to complete it.

It's at this address:

<http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=513391>

It should be noted that this questionnaire does NOT deal with copyright or intellectual property issues. Although these are no doubt important this study is primarily concerned with the 'how' of locating torrent information as opposed to the 'what' or 'why'.

Also, no information which can be used to identify persons (IPs or email addresses) is asked for or otherwise stored by participating in this survey.

Please feel free to voice any concerns or give feedback regarding the questionnaire - I'll try and answer them as best I can. I'll also post a link on this forum to the statistics and final report once its finished.

Thanks for reading,

kjd.